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A  
D E F E N C E  
OF THE  
True Church  
Called  
QUAKERS,

(Come and coming out of the Wildernesse, Babylon, and the dark Night of the Apostacy of Antichrist into their own Land, which is *Sion* the Mountain of Holinesse, there to Worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth) against the several Sects and sorts of people, called *Independants*, *Separatists* or *Brownists*, *Baptists*, *Pist Monarchy-men*, *Seekers*, and *High Notionists* of all sorts, who by the True Light are found and discovered to be out of the same.

Written by J. C. <sup>John rook</sup> According to the measure of Wisdom given unto him from God, who is the giver of every good gift.

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**W**hen the Jews outward Returned from the Captivity of Babylon, which was the true figure of the Saints coming out of the long and dark night of Apostacy, from the Doctrine and Life of the Apostles in the Primitive Times, which was the Captivity of the spiritual Seed, so great and many were their Enemies who endeavoured to canse their Work (in repairing the desolate and ruined places of Jerusalem) to cease, that those who were employed in that Work, with one hand wrought, and with the other held the Weapon; even so is it and must it be now at the Return of the spiritual Seed, not only within, by exercising Faith and Prayer upon and to him that is able to save to the uttermost, and in his strength wrestling against the Dragon and his Angels, Principalkies, Powers, and Spiritual Wickednesses in High Places, and sundry temptations, for quenching by the Armour of Light all the fiery Darts of the wicked one; but also without, both by holding forth the Word of their testimony, and sealing it with their blood and sufferings for the conviction and conversion of sinners, so sitting stones for Gods spiritual building, and also by stopping the mouths of gain-sayers, who shall not be able to resist the Spirit by which they speak; So standing in the gap and quitting themselves like spiritual-men against the Beast and false Prophet, and all the Armies of the Aliens.

Hear now therefore all ye that are called *Independants*, *Separatists*, or *Brownists*, *Baptists*, *Fift Monarchy-men*, *Seekers*, high *Notionists* of all sorts, the *Apologie* or *Defense* that I in the wisdom and strength of my God (for without him I can do nothing) do make against you, and for the true Church called *Quakers*, against whom and whose standing Profession ye variously have prejudice and do contend.

And First for you called *Independents*, ye assume a great Name, but ye are not found in the *Independent* nature, and so are not the true Church; for although ye profess your selves as to the visible Administration of Church-power, not to have dependance upon other Congregations or Churches

as an inferiour on a superiour; yet are there many things apparently seen amongst you which do un-Church you and remove your Candlestick far off; for the true golden Candlesticks among whom Christ the Son of God walketh, do hold up and hold forth the true light that it may shine before men; but ye (as do the common multitude) reject it, sleight it, and dispute against it as invalid and insufficient to lead in the way everlasting; and so ye would have it kept under the bushel, yea, quite extinguished in the hearts of men, and would have the Scriptures or Writings to be a light to it, and not it an enlightener and opener of them, whereby ye stumble at the Scriptures themselves, and cannot discern of the times and seasons, or of the Saints several states and conditions to God-ward, who because they sometime witnessed a war and striving against the body of sin, therefore say you, they must alway while they live carry it about them, as though the Saints fought as those that beat the Air, or as though their labour were in vain in the Lord: Oh! foolish people and unwise, when will ye come to the true Teacher in your selves, that ye may believe and know the Promise made unto the seed, *That there shall be no more a pricking Bryar unto the House of Israel, nor a grieving Thorn of all that are round about them that despise them; and they shall know that I am the Lord: Also that their Enemies which they have seen to day, they shall see them again no more for ever: And that ye may see their interest in Christs Prayer* (whom the Father heard alwayes, because he did alwayes the things that pleased him) who said, *Neither Pray I for these alone* (to wit, for the Apostles and Saints then in the world, that they might be sanctified through the Truth) *but for them also who shall believe in me through their words, that they all may be one, &c. I in them and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in me, and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them as thou hast loved me.* Mark, This was a state of Saints Perfection in this world, that worldly Spirits might be convinced thereby; but ye being in the unbelief, are (even as the multitude) alwayes hanging upon the lips of men, whose tongues are not touched (as the Prophets was) with a Coal from Gods Altar, who witnessed his sin purged, and so are ever learning, and never come to the true knowledge; for the

the Pastors and Teachers of your Congregations have not yet witnessed the *Urim* of the Sanctuary, I mean the true Spiritual Gift, by believing and waiting on the true light which shineth in their dark hearts, that should give them power from on high to minister in, but are either men learned with the learning of this world, or such who through strength of Brain, and often reading of the Letter of the Scriptures, can compose a Form of Words and deliver it unto you after a Priestly manner; so that ye (as still unsatisfied) heap to your selves National Priests also for Teachers, sometimes hearing the one, and sometimes the other; Yea, some of your Pastors (so called) are National Priests also: Oh! (Friends,) it might shame you and make you blush for shame (if ye could rightly consider) to call your selves the Churches of Christ, and *Independants*, and be thus so-dependant on mans Teachings; Yea, joyning with the National Priests about the way of sending out a Ministrie, and bearing the Beasts very Mark in your Foreheads while ye are so called; owning your Baptism in your Infancie to be true, though ministered to a blank, and by those who sprang from a Popish stock, and sprinkling your own Infants now from a false apprehension of the Promise made to you and your seed after the flesh, so calling that the seed; whereas the true Churches of Christ knew no such seed, nor owned any, but that which sprang out of Christs womb in the Regeneration, who is a quickning Spirit: So Christ the Corner-stone and Head of the Church, even the true and universal Light is come to fight against you with the sword of his mouth, and to testifie to your faces, *That though ye call your selves Jewes, yet ye are not, but do lye:* Yea, your Conversation in the world most plainly sheweth that your spot is not the spot of his Children; for we see you so mingled and interwoven in the Pride, Covetousness, Policie and Eolly of the world, that we could not by any holy walking know you, or cull you out as the clean from the unclean, or as Sheep from the midst of the Goats, if we did not now and then hear some of you called *Independants*; Lord, how empiric a thing it is to have a Name to live and to be dead? Wherefore come to him who is the Resurrection and the life, which life is the light of men, and becometh the light of life to all that believe and wait in

it, that they may bring forth fruit unto God, and so become living stones built up a spiritual House; for this is the Church of the First-born, whose Names are written in Heaven: For what is it for people to cry, *The Temple of the Lord, the Temple of the Lord, The Church of Christ,* the Church of Christ, and to be polluted and unclean both in Worship and Practice, or to call themselves the Children of *Abraham*, and not to do the Works of *Abraham*, for he forsook the Idolatry of his Fathers House, and in obedience to the Lords call, came into a Land that he shewed him; so coming to the Crosse to his own will, he also saw Christs day and was glad, and walked before the Lord and was upright, but ye do neither of these, as being still in the abominations of the Whore, who have made the Nations drunk, as kicking against the prick, the True Light and Reprover for sin and evil, and living in the Detestable Waies, Customs and Fashions of the World; so the Sun-shine of the Light in this the day of the Lords Power hath put and is putting out your Candle in obscuritie, & hath removed your Candlestick because ye repented not; for he hath raised up a People at last in this Nation wherein he hath placed his Name that it might not fall in the streets; who as they are faithful to the first Principle of God in them, to wit the Light, shall out-live, out-shine and eat out the Heart and Soul of all Professors and professions in the World that are found in the Idolatry, Pride and Vanity thereof, though under great and fair pretences of Christian Religion, which stands not in high words, but in loving Mercy, doing Justice, and walking humbly with the Lord God; so every way and in every thing keeping themselves unsupported of the World, yea having even the garment spotted with the flesh.

So that neither can ye *Brownists* or *Separatists* in this the Lords day, escape his Righteous Judgement and censure, though ye seem to stand at a greater distance from false Worship then the *Independents* do, but being weighed in the equal ballance are found too light to be accounted by us for the True Church of Christ; yet I know that because it is said in the Scripture, *come out from among them and be ye separate,* saith the Lord, *and touch no unclean thing and I will receive you,* &c. ye are very

very confident of your standing, for ye say, ye are separated from the National Antichristian Worship, abhorring their Idol Temples, and will not hear any of their Babel Priests, or break any Bread with them, &c. But consider impartially whether ye touch no unclean thing, yea whether ye came not from them with their grand abomination in your bosoms, which ye have ever since fostered and practised, and that with (a seeming) no little zeal, I mean the Sprinkling or Baptizing of your Infants, upon the account of their being the Seed of the Covenant as they are your Children, who say, ye are believers, a most bewitching Sorcerie this is, and an exceeding betrayer of the Pure Life of God, and that which bears death in the very face of it, and if ye are true to your own Principles, ye must needs be soon un-churched hereby, and brought back to Babel to do what you can, for your Children being hereby made Visible Members of your Body, they must needs be accounted Brethren as they grow up in years amongst you, though Regeneration be not witnessed by them (for by your own Approbation and Act ye received them in before they knew their very right Hand from their left) and so they must have all the priviledges of Brethren, though not discerning the Lords Body, or able to separate between the Precious and the Vile, or not favouring the things of the Spirit of God as the Natural man doth not, whereby a confused medly and mixt multitude must needs appear, yea and the tares soon overspread, and overgrow, and overtop the Wheat if there be any; and so that which ye counted the Churches of Christ, plainly become, and be seen to be by those in the Light, but the Field which is the World; is not this to mock God, and to throw down with one hand what ye would set up with the other? Come to the Light of Christ in your Consciences which makes manifest all things, and let True Judgement proceed; But alas ye are as great Enemies to that Pure Principle of God, which should reprove you for all deceitful and confused actions, and give you a right discerning, and purge you from all sin, as any other whatsoever, and are so rivited on the letter without, that ye will not endure to hear of the True Light within, which enlighteneth every man that cometh into the World, without which no mans heart could be searched, or ever any man converted.

to God. For I would know of you *Separatists*, how any of you at first came to be troubled for sin, or to have any good desires begotten in you towards the Lord or his Truth, which ye desired to know and were willing to suffer for? was not this done by the Spirit of the Lord which moved and stirred in you? and whence came this convincing and illuminating Spirit? came it from above the clouds, or pierced it into you from without? or was the thing alwayes within you, striving and struggling at several times, though ye took little notice of it before ye began to be humbled by it? can any man (even while unregenerate) see any more from Gods presence and Spirit, that his hand should not find him out, then after Regeneration? or could *David* have done so before conversion more then afterwards? can the wicked hide themselves that the Lord should not see them any more then the godly? I believe ye will all answer *Nay*; and if so, is the Spirit of the Lord God (who filleth all places and things with its presence,) out of a wicked man; or at a greater distance (as to place) from him then from a Righteous Man, though in the manner of its operation in them I know it is different, judging and reproving the one, and comforting and encouraging the other; So then the Spirit or Life being in and nigh every one, the true light must needs be in every one, for the life is the light of men, and so whatever good thing is wrought in mans heart, doth not come from without him, or from far, but from the word within the mouth and heart, and so ariseth from within himself; for saith wisdom, a good man shall be satisfied from himself; and so did Christ promise, *Who so ever, saith he, drinketh of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst, but it shall be a Well of waters springing up in him to Eternal Life*; and so did *Isaiab* Prophelie, *As the Earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the Garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the Nations*; Oh! the sweet springings and bud-dings of the pure Life of God in mans heart, after a night and winter of sorrow and darkness, and silent waiting upon that of God in him; surely by this means and no other shall Righteousness towards man, and praise and glory to the Lord



Lord God who is worthy, and alone worthy, spring up in the sight of others.

And oh! ye *Separatists*, so called, how can it be expected that ye should Minister to each other in your Assemblies by the living Power of the Spirit of truth (which is the Holy Anointing, and the onely Exerciser of the Saints in all their administrations) any more than others do, but that ye should be as dead, dry and formal as they in such exercises, when as ye will not turn to the light which is the true Teacher; and in the humility and penitency of your spirits wait in silence for the Comforters presence; are ye not now comprehended and discerned by (those who walk in the light as he is in the light) to be dry, dead and unsavoury, and having reproof and your Reprover, who now calls for more living fruit in this his day of light and truth than in the times of more ignorance? And are ye not proud and covetous, and set down at ease in the wayes and customs of men, as respecting persons, &c. as if there were no more crosse to be taken up, when the greatest is yet behind? For the light shining in your dark hearts, as it ariseth, will crosse your own wills and wisdom exceedingly, and reject your vain confidence of your being the onely true Church, and so ye will appear naked and bare, as those that have been but in a dream, that ye were come out of *Babylon*, when as the Whore and Beasts mark is discerned in your foreheads, & other of her trumpery among you; Wherefore I exhort you in Gods love and fear to come unto the light within, which brings out of death and deadness and all transgression, and out of all the wayes of confusion, and that abominable practise of Infant Baptism which is a chief ground thereof; and be not deceived, God is not mocked, for such as ye sow ye shall reap, and if ye will still sow to the flesh as ye have a long time done, ye shall reap corruption, vanity and sorrow; but if ye will sow to the Spirit, and lay your ground work there, ye shall from thence certainly reap life Everlasting.

But what hath he against us and our Profession may the Baptists say, who have not onely renounced our Infant Baptisme as a gross deceit, but have practised in direct opposition thereto by being dipped or baptized in water, and so profess Faith



and Baptism as the Apostles & Saints did before the Apostacy?

The Spirit of the Lord hath enough against your Faith, for some of you are for Free Will, which ye say is a power placed in you, whereby ye are able to stand or fall to your own Master of your own accord, by taking heed to what the Scriptures outwardly declare, some part whereof you call the Gospel, and own no other, so that one of ye once declared, *He knew no other Spirit now than the Scriptures*; as if the Spirit that moved the holy men of God to speak forth the Scriptures, when it had so moved them, had done its work, and so quite forsaken the Earth; when as the greatest glory of the Church, and purest life of the Saints is to be brought forth in these last times, as the Prophecies of the Scriptures do plentifully fore-shew, which cannot be brought to pass but by the Spirit of the living God, which Spirit or Life is but one in all and in all ages, which is a spirit of Judgment and burning, whose pure Judgements and Holy burnings are felt in this day of the Lords winnowing by those, who every one in their own measure and order do silently, sincerely and humbly wait for the same; for although we say that every ones condemnation is just for loving his evil deeds, and hating the light that shines in his heart, yet no man is able in his own will, distinct from this light, to adde one cubit unto his stature, that is, to make one step in saving knowledge or obedience, but is to believe in the light, and wait therein, so tarrying the Lords leisure, till he arise in him up to the prey, leading captivity captive, and bringing forth Judgement unto victory; and if this seems a strange or foolish Language unto you, know that it is because ye are in your own wills, in distinction from the light, which is Gods faithful witness within you, which faithful witness is Christ the Power of God unto Salvation unto every one that believeth, & this is the Gospel or glad tidings indeed, that man is not left to himself to work out his own Salvation, but that the God of all grace hath left in him a seed (which) as a confirmation thereof was plentifully manifested in his Son made of a woman in due time, in which he believing that it should break the serpents head, and do all his works in him and for him; so that ye Free-willers (so called) stumbling at this stumbling-

bling-stone, and setting up the Scriptures (which are but a wholsom Declaration of this seed and corner-stone) in its place; I do Declare against you and all such, that ye are Idolaters, and so out of the true Faith of Gods Elect, and therefore not the true Church of Christ, but the synagogue of Satan. Wherefore I exhort you to come out of your own wills and carnal wisdom, which begets you in your Congregations into many vain janglings, rents and disputings; and to wait in silence upon the Reprover in you for sin (which alone is able to give you victory over sin) that your mouths may be for ever stopped for pleading against the true light, which is the true Prophet, that ye perish not in the gain-saying of *Kore*, who also stood up against the Lords Prophet. Others deny indeed mans power, will and ability to do good, and so deny you, as out of the Faith; but how (since they are become such disputers against, and deniers of the true light that lightneth every man) they should themselves be in the true Faith, or find power and ability to bring forth any good and acceptable fruit unto God, I cannot behold; for which way should ye feel his living Power to enable you thereunto, or which way should the Spirit of the Lord come? Do you look for him by way of local motion, and so to enter from without to within you, can such a thought be without setting the phansie on work, and so making an Image of the Godhead within your selves; but if ye will not be accounted Idolaters, then must you needs come to the light within, which must reveal unto you the Image of the Invisible God in the still silence, and that which can reveal the Fathers Glory, must most certainly discover sin and evil which vails the same (while undiscovered and unjudged down and destroyed) from the mind of man; but this also ye Baptized Persons (that say ye deny mans Free Will) cannot believe, for ye think and say, though sin do remain in you (as it must as long as ye live here) yet ye have an Advocate with the Father, and so are justified by Christs Merits and Righteousness, the which for any one to deny, ye account a denial of Free Grace, yea and of Christ himself; So ye think ye may behold the Fathers Presence even while sin is standing. Alas, alas Friends, ye are much deceived (as are the common multitude) herein;

for in this day of Christ (the true light) another kind of Free Grace, and another manner of Saviour is discovered and revealed, than hath been formerly imagined; for know ye, that Gods Free Grace is his Free Gift in giving his Son a light into the world, whereby as men come to see, confesse and forsake all evil in thought, word and deed, Justification, Reconciliation and Peace with the Lord God they may come to witnesse, and no otherwise; for whosoever hath at any time seen his pure shape with a spiritual eye, cannot imagine or desire to have these any other way, his pure eyes beholding no Iniquity in any one without reproof where ever he finds it, neither can his all-seeing eye but see it where ever it is, and this is also the Saviour that we believe in and Preach, and no other, to wit a Christ to be known within, manifested in our flesh to destroy the works of the Devil, so saving us from the wrath to come, for he was not at all sent to justifie or save his People in their sins but from their sins, so is judgement laid to the line and equity to the plummet; look how far judgement hath passed upon the transgressour in any one, so far is mercy witnessed by the transgressour and no farther, and it is equity that it should be so, yet is it most free grace, in that the Lord God Almighty freely saves in this righteous way, by his own Almighty Arm, but so as that the creature may remember and take notice, *that if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the wicked and ungodly appear?* neither would this (Doctrine oh ye Baptists) seem a hard saying unto you, if ye were not double-minded, loving the Lords Salvation and your sins also, to wit, pride, covetousness deceit, self-seeking, respecting of Persons, having mens Persons in admiration for advantage sake, and such like; for if your eye were single to the Lord alone, ye would desire no peace at his hands, but in the way of all righteousness fulfilled in your selves, yea even to the silencing every idle and needless word, and the removing of every vain & Aairy thought in you, as knowing that holiness becomes his house for ever; but while ye cannot bear these true and faithful sayings, know ye that ye are alinated in your minds by wicked works which ye are in love with, what ever ye shall professe to the contrary, and so are also out of the faith which gives victory over the world, and all sin.

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And as for your being baptized with water, which is but an outward sign (at the most) of your being dead and buried and risen with Christ, know ye that the thing signified must be witnessed, before the sign can be truly applied, which cannot be till ye come to the true faith, and so out of the pollutions of the world, for otherwise ye set a seal to a blank, as well as those who sprinkle infants; neither is Baptism with water Christs proper Baptism, but was begun by *John* who came but to prepare the way of the Lord Christ, who was to baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, who was to increase in this his proper work, and *John* to decrease in his work; Now I grant that *Johns* Baptism was not suddenly left off, but decreased by degrees as the Saints came to eye and witness perfection, so as to behold and hold forth Gods purity and righteousness without a sign; so that it was practiced by the Apostles and Saints after Christs departure, and that sometimes by way of command, there being (for the present) a good use thereof, yet *Paul* expressly declareth (who was a Minister to the *Gentiles*) that he was not sent to baptize but to preach glad tidings, neither was that Commission of Christ to the Apostles in *Mat. 28.* a Commission to baptize with water, as I shall evidently demonstrate; for thus are the words truly to be read out of the Greek; *Therefore ye going forth or forward, Disciple all Nations, dipping or baptizing them into the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and behold I am with you all the dayes, even to the finishing of the age;* Hear we see, they were to proceed in their work (having first waited for power to do it) which was to enter people into the School of Christ and then to baptize them into the Name of the God-head; Now the Name of the Lord is his strength and power, whereby he is known wonderful in the hearts of his people, so, is the Name of the Lord a strong Tower; Now into this name nothing could bring them, but the same power from on high which the Apostles and Saints (that had first waited for the same in themselves) received, which power was the Baptism of the Spirit, whose effect was like unto fire, filling them with a holy jealousy, and burning up the dross, and bringing them into unitie with the Father and the Son in the

Spirit, so filling their hearts with joy and gladness, and putting words into their mouths, and utterance to declare the wondrous Works of God several wayes, according to its various workings in them, and sometimes even shaking the earthly Tabernacle, making them to appear unto the blinde world like drunken men, this Baptism which was truly Christs own, was (and is) altogether necessary in the Church of Christ, without which the work of the Lord in his day could not, nor cannot go on, and therefore was it an Essential part of their Commission, which they most carefully and faithfully regarded; so that when Persons believed (being also I deny not then baptized with water) they prayed and laid their hands on them, which was an outward sign of the blessing, and they received the holy Spirit; now if any one shall say how could the Apostles, who were but men, baptize with the Spirit? I answer, no otherwise then they could at first beget faith and repentance in those so baptized; it was the Lords work but they ministerially did it, that is, they having felt the power in themselves, the raised life in them Ministred to the life that lay low in others, and so brought it up; therefore that the Lord might shew he was not tied up to time or manner in the bestowing of his gift, while Peter spake those words to *Cornelius* and the rest, the holy Spirit fell on them that heard the word, so that this was the Baptism here meant by Christ, which was so Essential to the conversion of the world, and building up of the Saints, in so much that *Paul* joyns it with faith as a necessary companion, saying there is One Lord, one Faith, and one Baptisme; for by one Spirit are the Saints baptized into one body, Christ the baptizer being the head; who moreover told the Apostles that he would be with them all the dayes (that is of their Ministry) even to the finishing of the age; mark, there was an age or certain space of time wherein the truth of the Gospel should grow, and the Baptism of the Spirit or the comforters presence be witnessed through Christs Power accompanying their Ministry; and then should the Mystery of iniquity in false Apostles get such a head, by stealing and bringing in false Doctrines, Traditions and inventions, that it should (God so permitting it) overtop the life, and so the true Ministry should cease, and his living presence not be felt and enjoyed as before; which  
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most certainly came to passe, as we see (whose eyes the Lord hath opened) in the many hundred years Apostacy and reign of Antichrist; now if Christ meant that *He would be alway with them to the end of the world*, as its falsely rendred in English Bibles, how could his words be true, since we see by experience that the Glory of God which shined in his Temple in the Apostles dayes, departed over the threshold, the Church went into the wilderness, the Seed of God was captivated by the Whore of *Babylon*, and the man-Child (Christ in his strength) taken up to God and his Throne; wherefore in the second restauration of the spiritual Temple and re-edifying of the holy City new *Jerusalem*, people must first come to the true faith, by believing in Christ (the true light) and witness repentance from all false worships and and dead works of the world, as those that are wearie of *Babylons* captivity, and that set their faces towards *Sion* in truth; and so must wait with the Lords people in silence and humility for the Fathers promise, which is the Comforter, even the Spirit of truth, which in his due time baptizeth such with fire, and so by degrees leads them into all truth, and out of all sins and errour, and so the Church cometh out of the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved, that is, staying her mind upon *the light within*, and being content with her portion, be it much or little, be it judgement or mercy, be it in a day of blackness or gloominess, or in a day wherein it is neither dark nor light, or in the evening time, wherein it shall be light, as saith the Prophet, or in the sun-shine of the day it self; so not despising the day of small things, or overlifted up with great things, neither must they all this while, set upon or practice any outward thing in the worship of God, in their own wils, or by imitation of others, or meerly from a precept without, but onely as Christ the light shall lay that precept upon them; for if they do, they are will-worshippers, and so Idolaters; for as the Son of God was once personally present in a body of flesh, commanding the Apostles to teach the People (at the first raising of the Gospel Church) to observe all things whatsoever he had before commanded them, and said unto them, while so present with them, which the Comforter afterwards brought to their remembrance; so in  
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the restoring thereof the second time, none are to observe any  
 thing, or teach any thing to be observed, but what Christ  
 (manifested in their bodies of flesh) doth command them, for  
 saith he, *I go away (to wit as to his Personal body) and the  
 world shall see me no more; but ye shall see me* that is, in their  
 own bodies manifested. Now by this (Oh all ye Baptists may  
 ye try your selves) unto present practice of water Baptism,  
 and all other Administrations and performances in your  
 Congregations; have ye witnessed this true faith, or are  
 ye yet disputing against it, have ye repented of all dead  
 works, or are ye still wallowing in the pollutions of the  
 world? have ye waited or do ye wait in silence for the Fathers  
 Promise, or do ye set your selves on work in a formal Preach-  
 ing, and dead praying, and hanging on the lips of such  
 Preachers and Prayers? Do ye (or others) keep an out-  
 ward Sabbath (whether on the seventh or first day) from  
 mens Precepts or a Mosaical Rule, or from a Command of  
 life within? Do ye Baptize and are Baptized, and break  
 Bread from a particular Command in your selves, or because  
 the Saints formerly so practised? Do ye exercise the power  
 of the keys from the true spiritual discerning judgement  
 and power, or because the Churches before the Apostacy did  
 so bind and loose? Ye must know that there hath been a wide  
 step between the Apostles and our dayes, and that the gather-  
 ing of the Church at first out of Egypt, and the bringing it  
 out of Babylon, are two several things, and are not brought  
 to pass after one and the self-same manner, as to the outward  
 administration of things. Also consider that *Johns* Revela-  
 tion was a Prophetic of what things were and must come to  
 pass after the Apostles, and not a Relation of what was  
 done in their dayes; so that in the coming out of mystical  
 Babylon, the Lambs followers wait on him for the opening of  
 that mystical Book, as that which concerns their present con-  
 dition. Now when the Angel came down from Hea-  
 ven, and lightned the earth with his Glory, whereby  
 the everlasting Gospel came to be Preach'd, saying, *Fear God  
 and give Glory to him, for the hour of his Judgement is come; and  
 come out of Babylon my people, and partake not of her sins lest ye re-  
 ceive of her plagues: Then as people came out of her by the*  
 guidance



guidance of the light, the Temple of God, or his holy Habitation in the Spirit was opened in Heaven; they had a sight in themselves into what state they should be brought, even to have a habitation in God, and he in them; but then was this Temple filled with smoke from the Glory of God and from his power, that none was able to enter thereinto till the seven Plagues of the seven Angels were fulfilled; none could fully behold and enjoy the Glory of the Lord till all his Plagues and Judgements were executed upon the Transgressor and transgression within; which being finished, an entrance was ministered into the New *Jerusalem* that came down from God, whose light was clear as Chrystal, and wherein *John* saw no Temple, that is, he saw no outward Constitution of a Church visible, by those two signs of *Water-baptism*, and *Laying on of Hands*, which were called the first Beginnings, or Principles in the *Hebrews*, or *breaking of Corporal Bread*: but the Lord God Almighty & the Lamb were the Temple of it; that is, whosoever hath a dwelling place in God who is perfectly pure & holy, is (in this day) to be accounted a Member of this holy City, which also had no need of the Sun to shine by day, nor the Moon by night, nor the light of a Candle, all created helps and shadows were uselesse there, for the Lord God alone and the Lamb are the light thereof; so that by this Scripture alone are all you Baptists for ever silenced for pleading for a necessity of Baptism, or laying on of Hands, or breaking of Bread, or Mens Teachings, or Scripture-light, without the true light opening them; because after the coming out of *Babylon* there is to be no visible Temple, so as to say *lo here*, or *loe there*, which is by a shadow or sign; nor no need of any such thing to distinguish the Saints from the World, or lead them up to God, for they shall see his face even by his immediate light, and his Name shall be in their Foreheads, even by his pure Image of Innocency and Righteousnesse which shall most plainly appear to the view of the World; and so by these two things shall the Glory of the second Temple be greater than the Glory of the former.

And if any of you shall say, *This state and time is not yet come, and therefore the signs & visible Administrations must be practised.*

I Answer, Those that can truly say they do believe in Christ the Light, and have forsaken sin as aforesaid, and are purely moved to be Dipped in Water, &c. to help their weakness, or in obedience to the inward Command, let them do it and prosper; but let them not sit down there alwaies, or strive to bring back others, thereto that see no need thereof, yea rather that it would be but a hurt and cloud unto them; for although many of the Saints (the Lambs followers) yea perhaps most do not yet witness a full entrance into the aforesaid Condition, yet in all of them the Temple of God is opened by the light of the Lamb, and the Vials are pouring out daily to destroy sin in them, that waits the perfect light of God; and for now their work is to look stedfastly forward till all impediments, that hinder their perfect and continual Peace be removed, and not to take up their time by the way, about the Exercise of those things which must not (shortly) appear, or be of any use. Thus are your skirts also discovered, and your honour left unto you desolate, for ye have not been faithful to that pure Principle of God which (as first) stirred in some of you, and might then move you to be Baptized with Water, but are set down in a fleshly rest, not waiting for the spiritual Baptism that should have made you dead to the World, and Crucified you with Christ, and also have Exerted you by its pure Gift in all your worshippings and goings forths, so that ye hereby not growing up in that which is living and eternal, are grown more earthly, sensual, dead, carnal and formal than divers years ago when I walked among you; yea even as dead and dry as the Priests themselves, preaching in such a method as they, setting up your Desks, and Pulpits, and Clocks, and Hour-glasses, to see how the time goes away, and your Members sitting (some of them) in their Pride, and all of them gazing upon an Image in a Desk or Pulpit; yea, and some of you so degenerate from your first Principles, that ye (as do the Independents so called) mingle your selves with the Nation about sending out a Ministry; yea, and some of your Chief Leaders have lately not blushed openly to declare, That you hold us our Duty to stand by, and preserve (so much as in you lies) the publick Ministry of the Nation, whom ye judge ought to have their Liberty: So it seems ye are

ready to defend them in offending and afflicting those who in the tenderness of their Consciences, and holy Zeal for the dreadful & pure Name of their God, cannot maintain or feed, but openly oppose the false Prophets, the Ministers of Antichrist, the Emissaries of Satan, and deceivers of thousands of Souls, of which sort these publick National Ministers are, as denying Christ Jesus the Son of God to be both a King, a Priest, and a Prophet; which thing your Baptists some years ago did earnestly affirm and declare. Nor take away the Law of man from maintaining them to Usurp upon, Constrain or Punish others; and they are no more than other men. But tis no wonder that ye so declare your selves, who are so far degenerated and leavened with the Principles and Interests of these Pharisees who say and do not, that ye shew the greatest Opposition to the Saints holy and zealous Practices, as irregular or out of Rule; But ye have not declared what those Practices particularly are, nor what rule they are out of, whether that of the Old man, or of the New Lord, what a Church or Spouse of Christ are these pretended Believers Baptized become; who have not a word to plead for him (whom they own to be their Husband) against the Beast, but would submit in silence to any humane Government; nor against the false Prophet; but have a hand to preserve him, accounting those that do (in this day of the Lord) oppose them both, to be irregular (as though they thereby would cast the whole bulk of persecution, and rage, and malice of the multitude upon the Lambs followers, who are called, and chosen, and faithful in their measures of life, and so being themselves afraid what man could and can do unto them. Neither would your Independent Brethren have us to be Commanded or Intreated by the Nation; which as none know a right how to Govern others, but those that are themselves governed by the Lord Jesus; who are appointed to Govern as well as to Preach; for the spirit of true Government is a pure and majestic Gift of God, not consisting in whorish and pompous state; but in the liberty and glory of simple Truth and naked Justice, which lays the Rod upon the back of the Transgressor, and smiteth upon the weak not impartially. And (O Nation) because thou considerest not this, therefore are not thy breaches healed; but rather in-

creased unto this day. Oh be ye ashamed to call your houses the Churches of Christ, when ye are so far out of the Life and Praefile of the Apostles and Prophets, upon whose foundation the former Churches were builded, Jesus Christ himself the true Light being the Head Corner-stone: For Consider whence the word Church is derived, even from a word that signifies to Call out: so that the true Church of Christ is a people called out of the Wayes, Wickednesse, Formalities, Customs and Fashions of the World, into the pure obedience to, and worshipping of God in the Spirit by his own living Word which is nigh in the heart and mouth, to which Word ye should always well to take heed, as to a light shining in a dark place, which is your dark hearts, that it may lead you out of all the wayes of sin, death and deere into the paths of all Righteousnesse, even into such a pure way, wherein no dangerous Beast that fights against the wimels of God and his living truth can ever come saith the Lord Almighty, and that because of his flaming Sword which turneth every way to keep the way of the Tree of Life from all such.

But you will object and say: The Light which thou sayest breaketh out and calleth Christ within, as the Enlightenment of every man that comes into the World, is no more but a Natural instinct or endowment, or Light of Nature, whereby man is able to reflect upon himself when he hath done good or evil, yea and sometimes restrain from the evil, and do the good as well as commit the evil, whereby the conscience accuseth or excuseth him, for Paul saith in his Epistle to the Romans, when the Gentiles which have not the Law, do by Nature the things contained in the Law, they having not a Law are a Law unto themselves; and again the uncircumcision which is by Nature keepeth the Law shall judge thee, who through the Letter and Circumcision art a transgressor of the Law.

This one thing may for ever stop the mouths of all such Objectors, if they would but consider that (as in the truth it is) Paul is not here speaking of any thing, but that which suffices in the sight of God; for it was not his work to declare to people (being an Apostle of Jesus Christ) any False, Peace, Reconciliation or Obedience, but what tended to the justification of life; therefore he saith before, that he was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the Power of God unto Salvation to every one Jew and Greek, that believeth; and therefore he saith

in the thirteenth verse of the second Chapter, *that the Hearers of the Law are not just before God; but the doers of the Law shall be justified*; for when the Gentiles which have not the Law, do by nature the things contained in the Law, these having not an outward written Law are a Law to themselves; whereby they by the finger of God which wrote the effect of it in their hearts, which is the light of Christ that enlighthenech every man, are justified in the sight of the living God, or condemned in his sight by the same finger or light; so that their consciences either excused them unto the justification and salvation of their souls, or accused them unto the damnation thereof; so it is most plain, that that Principle whereby they by Nature or Naturally did the will of the Lord, was no other then the light and life becomin without which there is none of you dare deny any one can be justified.

But moreover because of your hardness of heart, Consider what ye say, when ye speak of Nature of things by Nature; the word Nature comes from a word that signifies to be Born; so that whatever a man doth by Nature, he doth by that which was born with him or brought forth with him into the World, as beasts also do in their kind; yea and inanimate creatures in their kind; so moving and rest are general works of Nature. Because every Creature moveth or resteth from a Principle which it had from its birth; but here men are apt to commit idolatry in not minding and seeing whence this birth or nature, and the works thereof proceeds and do subsist, for in the Eternal Power and God-head who was in himself most glorious, before any thing was born or brought forth, or before nature was, doth all things; and nature with all its works, subsist & have their being, so that they are nothing but what he is in them, yet every thing in its degree, measure and order, and so man is in the highest degree of being from that ability which the Creator, who is the Soul of the World and Life of all things placed in him, Now this being rightly considered, all that which men in a fighting manner are wont to call instincts of Nature, or natural light or endowment, is the very effect of the Life of God himself stirring and moving that way; so then mankind having an ability in him from his birth to reflect upon himself (as to Godward) when he hath done good or evil (which the beast is not capable of).



lost to be accused or tormented, or excused and comforted,  
 this ability of all it whatey will) is from the life of all things,  
 and the Eternal Word of his Power which is the light and life  
 of men, which cannot be separated from mans understanding,  
 whereby the Spirit of a man becomes the Candle of the  
 Lord; and so the effect of the Law is written in mans heart by  
 the Finger of God, by Nature, or from his birth, for that word  
 implyeth no more, and in this did the Gentiles differ from  
 the Jews, in that these had a law also outwardly declared  
 (which was added because of the height of transgression against  
 the law in the heart, till the Seed or life that there placed it  
 should arise to fulfil it) and the other onely the Principle by  
 Nature of the forced ability from their birth without any out-  
 ward engraving or writing, whereupon the Jews boasted  
 over the Gentiles, because to them were outwardly commit-  
 ted the Oracles and Ordinances, &c. Wherefore Paul to stop  
 their mouths, (for the seed was now raised) saith, *for when the  
 Gentiles which have not a law, do by Nature, or the Principle pla-  
 ced by God in them from their birth, the things contained in the  
 Law, also having not a Law outwardly written, are a Law to  
 them (as, that is, have the Pure Principle of God in themselves  
 from their birth, shewing them what to do, and what to abstain  
 from, and so, if the uncircumcision which is by Nature keep  
 the Law, that is, if they which are not from their birth cir-  
 cumcised outwardly, as not being the Seed of Abraham accord-  
 ing to the flesh, do keep the Law by the same pure Principle of  
 God, they shall judge the Jews outward, who having such a  
 a Law and Circumcision do yet transgress the Righteous  
 principle of God, which sheweth them that inwardly which  
 the Law outwardly declareth of, and which Circumcision out-  
 ward holdeth forth, so ye may if ye are not wilful, see your  
 mistake in separating Nature from the God of Nature, and  
 that that which naturally sheweth man what is good and what  
 is evil is the pure principle of God, or the word by which all  
 things were made, which is Christ the light, for saith the Ap-  
 postle, what secret may be known of God is made manifest in them, co-  
 wise, by nature or from their birth, for God hath shewn it un-  
 to them which he hath not shewn unto a beast, because of the  
 lower Region he was created in, so that men are not in this  
 sence*

fence (by nature) Children of Wrath, but Children of the  
 Day, to wit, as man was at first brought forth into this which  
 shewed him what was good and what was evil, for so he was in  
 the Image of God, but as going from the good and chusing  
 the evil, so acting in self in distinction from the power or pure  
 Principle of God, which inclination is since become naturall  
 or is in him from his birth, and so by nature is a Child of  
 Wrath, as the inclination to evil acts it self forth, and where  
 as Jude speaketh of some, who in whatsoever things they know  
 naturally as living Creatures void of reason (for so it is in the  
 Greek) in those things they corrupt themselves, that is in  
 those things which they know only from the Eternal light  
 manifested in them, which is Gods truest Word, for which  
 none but a Creature that hath reason is capable of, but in  
 things pertaining to the five Senses of Seeing, Feeling, Tasting,  
 Smelling and Hearing, for the Sense of Touch knows by  
 the instinct of Nature or from his birth, which is also the Prin-  
 ciple of his Creator in him, in his kind, that he is to eat and  
 drink to satisfy himself, as feeling when he hath enough meat  
 and drink, to give off and chew the cud, or lie down to sleep,  
 &c. whereas these men (as many do now) feasted and fed  
 without fear moderately, or drink inordinately, and thus cor-  
 rupted themselves in such things wherein the Beast was more  
 moderate, and this is the Natural man that prevaileth, had  
 the things of the Spirit of God, the light being obstructed by  
 sense and sensuality in him, and in this sense, whatsoever  
 man doth by house, or in his own sensual will, differing from  
 the feeling of the Life and Power of Gods, all that he doth is  
 rejected and corrupted, though the works may be good in them-  
 selves and shewn by the Eternal Light, yet he that is chari-  
 table to the poor, which the light sheweth to be good, if  
 he give his Alms from a wrong ground or to a wrong end,  
 though he cannot winde himself in his Work with the  
 Lord, yet he shall judge another who is Right, and yet so covet-  
 ous that he hurleth up his bowels from the Poor and Needy,  
 and so might the Gentiles also condemn the Jews, though  
 themselves sensually performing some good actions were not  
 accepted, because not reconciled to the light in themselves,  
 which shewed the action to be good. But notwithstanding,

this



this is a real and infalible Truth, that it is no other than the pure Principle of God, or his Word in the heart which is the true light; that sheweth man by nature or from his birth, what what is good and evil; which Principle it self was never born or had a beginning, any other wise than was in manifestation in man, whose Soul came out from the breath of the Almighty (who is out of time) in time.

But some may say, what great hurt or inconvenience can come unto us, though we do not own or believe that which is nigh every man to shew him sin and evil; and which convinceth in his Conscience to be Christ the true light; since we believe Christ to be the true light in himself; and to be the Judge, Saviour, Teacher and Comforter of his People, according to the Scriptures.

I Answer, as Paul in another case, much every way; for first, thou shalt never come a night to know what is good and what is evil, what is sin and what is righteousness; but wilt be ready to call good evil, and evil good, and wilt be still in an uncertainty concerning what the good and perfect will of God is; and how then shouldst thou do it? for thy mind being abroad, thou art in the wandering state, and although thou searchest the Scriptures never so narrowly and diligently, yet therein will appear thwartings, and contradictions; & scruples not through default of the Scriptures, but by reason that thou art not fixed in that which should settle them: Hence have arose (for many years past) those which they call Casuists, who have under-took to answer Cases of Conscience for people from the Scriptures when with all very Rev. lovers being themselves from that which should resolve all doubts and difficulties, more (like unskilful Physicians) left tender Consciences half-quieted, yea, and oftentimes made the scruple and trouble greater than before; and so the leaders of the people have (this way) caused them to err. Neither wilt thou see the advantage of sin as it is in it self, and as thou oughtest to see it; for that which toucheth and pricketh to the heart; that is most important; *Wilt thou say they do* they seeing furthering them in the face with a distal Countenance, and how it hath separated them from Gods fountain of all good, they are even as those men and, and for their stony and stubborn heart cannot be broken, and therefore willing

willing to deny their wills, lusts and pleasures for the enjoyment of his favour whom they have transgressed against; but men may and do hear the plagues and judgements of God declared against sin and sinners in the Scriptures a long time, as God shall wound the heart of him that goes on in his wickedness, the wicked shall be turned into hell, and all that forget God, how that their worm shall never die nor fire never be quenched, that they shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death, and such like, and yet they never be moved at it, but either are apt not to believe it, or to put the day of evil far from them; for all outward Declarations or threatnings without that which rips man open, and set him naked and bare before the Lord, are but as those that flie over the head, but never toucheth the body, and so do no execution upon the transgressor. So neither can man, if at any time he be wounded for sin, be truly healed and comforted, because that which smites must heal, and that only. Now if any one, see his sinfulness as Ephraim did, and go not to the sin Pharaoh, but go to Egypt, how should he have a true and thorough cure? Now at such a time, one may fetch and gather in all the promises in the Scriptures and endeavour so apply them or have them applied to himself, and strive to believe, that they do belong to him, and yet be never at rest, the nearer so Peace with the living God; and how many have deceived themselves in this way, and like children quieted themselves a while, but afterwards conscience and they have more fallen at odds then before; for the soul being invisible and immortal, no outward Declaration or promise can satisfy, because that is received in by the sense of seeing or hearing, the sound and sight whereof vanishes, but the voice of the Lord in the invisible and immortal and eternal light and love, makes up all breaches in the soul as they open so wide, applying unto the wounded conscience the blood of sprinkling, and washing and cleansing, and so speaks in Truth and reality better things then that of *thou*. Neither after the work of regeneration begun and in measure finished, can any one that believes not in, nor sayeth his mind on the invisible immortal light within him, be preserved against the snares and subtilties

tilties that do attend him; and the many Temptations, and sundry tryals, that do befall him, whereby he should endure to the end and be saved; for the Light is his Armour, the Word nigh in his heart and mouth is his sword, which are to be with him continually; the light is the leaven of the Kingdom, that works into and preserves in the favoury Life; it is the immortal hand that keeps the Soul fast to it self that it maketh not ship-wrack of Faith and a good Conscience: and though there may be never so many opinions in the World taken up and contended for, with or about the Scriptures, or never so many *Atheistical* opinions contradicting the Scriptures; yet the immortal Eternal light residing and and shining in the heart; being believed and waited in, becomes the Anchor of the Soul sure and steadfast, reconciles the Scriptures, and makes the Soul to triumph over all Ranting and *Atheistical* spirits, to rejoyce in the hope of the glory of God, and to strive against every thing that may Eclipse it; So shut not your eye oh ye Professors, neither cavil against the Universal, saving, necessary light of the Lamb, for though Christ Jesus be light and life in himself, yet that can avail you nothing unless he be so in you; till which time, all the light and knowledge that is in you from without, is darkness, and then, how great is it?

And now (Oh ye *Fift Monarchy-men*, as ye are called) must you be searched and tryed by the Ballance of the Sanctuary, to see whether your sword of steel be the right weapon which the arm of God must use to prepare and make way for Christs Kingdom in the world; that ye are very great opposers of the true light within I know, and must needs be, while ye are in this Principle; that there were four eminent worldly *Monarchies* or Kingdoms (to wit) the *Affrick, Persian, Macedonian*, and *Roman*, Tyrants who had their time to rise and fall, so that the Tyranny of the last of these, which is the worst of these, is drawing nigh to its period; and that in the dayes of these Kings, the God of Heaven hath and will set up a Kingdom that shall never be destroyed; as saith the Prophet *Daniel*, I know and see, but that this Kingdom shall be uttered in, by such grosse outward observation, and Busse, as ye imagine, or that it shall be administr'd when set

up; in such a way and manner as ye think, I utterly deny; for if ye will come to the Scriptures, which ye seem much to adhere to (though in a very literal sence) let us see what they testify both of the way of setting it up, the nature of the King or Monarch that ruleth, and the manner of his Government; when Christ the Son of God, the first born among many brethren, was bringing into the World, before the Tyranny of Antichrist got up, this very Kingdom was approaching, and there was a messenger sent to prepare his way, even Job the Baptist, who was a plain man, of plain raiment, and mean fare, crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his pathes straight, which was to be done by repentance from sins; for saith he, Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand; Now at that very time was the Roman Empire or Monarchy at a great height, and Tyrannized over the subdued Jews, and was grossly and heathenishly Idolatrous, and the blind Jews thought Christ their King, when he came would have redeemed them out of that thralldom by some external power, so restoring (as they imagined) the Kingdom to Israel; but alas they were much deceived in those their expectations; for his Kingdom was of another nature, so that Job his forerunner, came onely Preaching Repentance, and bearing witness to him as the true light (that lighteth every man) to be believed in, which should lead thereunto, neither did Christ himself while on the Earth, or any of his Disciples in that time, use any other means, or Decree any other Doctrine in order to this Kingdom, which before some of them should taste of death, he testified they should see it come in power; neither hath Christ two Kingdoms, the one spiritual, and the other Personal, as ye distinguish, for in his Personal appearance he suffered and was despised, but in his spiritual appearance he rejoyleth and triumpheth World without end. Nor was the Reign of Antichrist the ruine and destruction of that his Kingdom which was set up in the Apostles dayes (for he still made good his Title in the hearts of some, one way or other, in the darkest times, as he that had right to Reign) but onely was withdrawn a while that he might the second time come upon the necks of his enemies with the greater force; but it must still be in the same spiritual way, for the King-

them is but one now as before; wherefore doth he now prepare  
 his way as in times past, by calling upon all men to repent &  
 forsake the evil of their ways, by believing in his light within  
 them; which discovers it unto them, that they may feel his  
 living power; and so saith *Joh* in his Revelation, *That the*  
*Lamb makes War with the Beast by the sword which proceedeth out*  
*of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips must he slay the wicked,*  
 so that all ye who treasure up carnal weapons, which ye say,  
 are to be referred against a day of slaughter; when ye shall by  
 the Lord (as ye suppose) be bid to strike, are no fit Instruments  
 in God's hand, or in his work, yea ye have no part nor lot in  
 his matter; but are carryed on with a *Jehus*' zeal, breathing  
 out threatnings, which (if ye stop not your furious course)  
 will end in your destruction; for he that smites with the sword  
 shall perish by it. Consider also what a King or Monarch this  
 is (who is to Reign in righteousness over all) that ye seem to  
 be so jealous for; I give my Testimony with *Paul* (as I have  
 felt him in my measure) thus concerning him; I charge thee,  
 saith he to *Timothy*, in the sight of God who quickeneth all  
 things; and before Christ Jesus, who before *Pontius Pilate* wit-  
 nessed a good confession, that thou keep this Commandment (which  
 is to fight the good fight of Faith and follow after righteousness,  
 godliness, patience, meekness, love, &c.) without spot unre-  
 buckable, till the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; which in  
 his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate,  
 the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; who only hath im-  
 mortalitie, dwelling in the light which no man can ap-  
 proach unto (to wit in his own wisdom) or with his bodily  
 eye, whom no man hath seen, nor can see (to wit with  
 those) to whom he honour and Power everlasting, Amen. Oh  
 that ye sword-men had your eyes opened to behold this King  
 as he is here witnessed, how would you then be ashamed,  
 and amazed at your own folly in going upwards, as expect-  
 ing to see him in a bodily shape and with a corporal eye, to  
 Reign on Earth; Here you see *Paul* witnesseth he shall be shewn  
 in his times; and that as the only Potentate or Monarch, and  
 yet he saith no man can see him; what a contradiction may  
 this seem to be to your grosse understandings; but it is  
 really so, I averre; for his appearance in the world in his  
 times.

times, must be agreeable to his nature; he onely hath immortality, therefore must be seen onely by that which is immortal, he dwelleth in the light, and therefore must be beheld onely in the light, and by an eye internally enlightened; So that now stop your mouths for ever, and cease from your carnal interpretations of those Scriptures which speaks of Christs coming to reign on earth; but turn to within, even to his light wherewith every one of you are enlightened, that in that light ye may see him who is invisible, dwelling in the light, whom no man hath nor can see nor approach unto; for assure your selves that the world shall see his bodily Shape and Person no more; but the Saints do and shall see him, for because he liveth they shall live also. And as for the manner of this spiritual Kings Government, it must be spiritually, not by an outward visible shining body, quelling and over-awing the enemies of his Kingdom, but by his inward and invisible Power in the hearts of his People, making the people to fall under him, or chaining them up; yea, making all his enemies within and without to go backward and see before him; and although ye may too much prize this as a weak & inconsiderable thing, because it seems not pompous to your carnal eye, yet know that it is of the greatest force that can be imagined; For is not Conscience more to a man than a thousand witnesses? Which if it once condemn, God is greater and knoweth all things; and to the comfort of the wicked increaseth; Now that of Christ in the Saints arising in Power, and transforming them into his own Image of Righteousness and true Holiness, his Name is seen in their foreheads by living fruits, which reaching to the witness of God in wicked men, they cannot stand before it; for the wicked cannot stand in Judgement, nor sinners in the Congregation of the Righteous, because by the Righteous Principle of God in themselves they are judged, which worketh in their guilty Consciences the fear and shudder of Eternal vengeance, which fierce indignation of the Almighty, that they may avoid, they also are oft times brought to lay hold of eternal Life, bringing forth fruits meet for Repentance; and so the work of the Lord prospereth in this his King immortal, his hand, in his Majesty riding prosperously, because of Truth



and Meekness and Righteousness, and his right hand teaching him terrible things, and brings to pass greater things hereby than all outward force, fear and violence were able to do. Now the reason why ye favour not such things as these, is because ye (with many other Professours) are out from that which should give you salt in your selves to savour withal, and so being buried in the Letter of the Scriptures, do interpret them according to a mind that is under the ministration of the Letter, and not of the Spirit. So look what truths of God are to be spiritually understood and discerned, ye being out of the light, do literally understand, and so are for an external or personal appearance of Christ in his Kingdom, even as a fifth visible Monarch in the world, and for a Holy City outward, just so long and broad, and every way compassed, as that description of it in the *Revelation* seemeth outwardly to describe. So ye will talk, and be even very zealous for a New Heaven and a New Earth wherein dwelleth Righteousness, but what fruit doth the expectation of such things (in your way expected) bring forth in you? Doth it make you diligent to be found of him in Peace without spot and blameless, as Peter exhorted the Saints to be, who looked for such things? Or are you in the vanities and folly of the multitude, who are without Hope or God in the world? How proud, rough, rugged, earthly-minded, bitter, dead, dry and unfavoury do many of you appear? Oh People, it is not a discourte of, or expectation of great and outward changes or happiness, though for ever to endure, that will bring to the Cross of Christ, and slay the enmity of your minds by wicked works, but it is the knowing the Cross of Christ in your selves, which is his living and quickning Power, felt by waiting in his light, that must bring you to take up your own cross and follow him: else while you think to be the man that shall Reign with Christ and Judge the world, ye your selves will be Judged by Christ in this his day, which cometh and is come as a snare upon all the earth. Your good intentions towards the executing of Justice and Righteousness in the earth, in opposition to Tyranny and Oppression, I confess is to be owned, but ye take not the right course how to bring it forth; for it is not the halting Weapon, be long threatening



ning or the like, at the Beast that will change his nature; but it is the Life that is the light of men which will do it, for that which alone searcheth the hearts, can and doth alone taste the same; so that if (as the Lambes true followers) ye know how to make War in Righteousness with the Whore, Beast & false Prophet, through Faith & Patience ye might & should do good; but if out of a rash and blind zeal ye will steer an indirect course, no wonder if you arrive not at your desired Harbour; for if ye will needs give blows, ye must expect blows again; because it thus exasperates the proud and wilful nature, whose Element it is even to live in the fire: also an outward force to an outward, is like to like; but a spiritual Power against a carnal is altogether different, and what shall alway stand against Gods living Power in Spirit, by whom all things were made, and in which they all subsist; and by which all hearts are bridled? Saul was a stout and valiant Warriour, and higher than the rest by the head and shoulders; and went in and out a notable Chieftain before the People; but when Gods witness accused him, he was as weak as water; yea, fell down upon his face to the ground: So now we keeping close to this, as the Head-stone in the Corner, the Weapon we War withal, though it be managed with much Meekness and Patience (as it ought to be) is far stronger than yours that keeps a greater clattering; for yours hath yet wrought no deliverance in the earth, nor never will; but thousands (Glory be to the Lord God of Power) can witness deliverance from the unjust power, and from Injustice and unrighteousness in thought, word and deed, even by the Armour of light, which is Gods faithful witness within them, and the Government placed upon his shoulders; who by his most powerful and good Spirit will in due time Govern the Nations Righteously upon the earth, and in no other way; Therefore I advise you to put up your Sword of Steel into his Sheath forever, yea, to break him into a Plow-share; for so he may be of some good use among mankind; and wrestle not so against flesh and blood, as to kill the Creature; which is Gods Workmanship; but come to know the Weapons of the Saints Warfare, which are not carnal but spiritual, yet mighty through God to the pulling down all the Strong-holds of sin

fin and sinners both within and without; for saith Paul, *They be in readiness to revenge every disobedience, when your obedience (speaking to the Saints) is fulfilled.* So then, if ye will be accounted of the number of the Saints that follow the Lamb in his Holy War, wait to feel his living Power in your own Barriours, wch may falsify your obedience towards him: and then shall the same Power (appearing in you) be able to revenge all disobedience in others, be they Magistrates, Priests or People: but if ye live in the disobedience your selves against Gods faithful witness, which is his true light within you, and come not to the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which maketh Humble and Meek, smytheth the earthly mind, and brings out of self, and all selfish wayes into the true self-denial, which is to Love and give Glory onely to God, and to love ones Neighbour as ones self (which to do aright (the light waited in in truth) will discover) your out-cry against others wickedness, and injustice will be but as the clasp of a Mose in anothers eye, when as a Beam is still in your own eye.

But ye will say, That Christ Luke 22. 36. a little before his suffering, had the Disciples, *That he who had not a Sword should sell his Garment and buy one;* which could not be but for some great and necessary use, that the having of it should be purchased before a necessary Garment.

Can ye say in truth of heart, and nothing within you tell you that ye lye, that what Christ (in this Particular) said to the eleven, that he in them spake to all Saints who should come after? As he did when he exhorted them to Watch, saying, *What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch.* Was this Sword that he bid them to buy onely for some special use at the time of his apprehension? Which was to hold forth, that all such fighting with the Sword by the Saints was now to take its farewell in the world: Christ was made under the Law, which both tolerated, and oft times commanded the Jews not onely to defend themselves, but to offend their enemies; so an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth; and he was not yet offered up which put an end to the Law, also observe his reason for his so speaking, for (saith he) *I say unto you, that this which is written must be accomplished in me;* And he

was reckoned among the tranſiefflowrs: for the things concerning me have an end: intimating hereby that the buying of the Sword was for the very ſole mentioned purpoſes, and when the things written concerning theſe ſufferings were fulfilled, then the outward Sword muſt be put up and laid aſide, as he bid Peter to do. when he had once miſtreated with it; but he perished by it. Likewise mark his answer to them, when they ſaid there were two Swords. ſaith he, I ſee enough: altho' though he ſeemed to ſay before, that everyone ſhould ſell his Garment (that had not a Sword) to buy one: ſhewing thereby, that this thing was not of Universal uſe; ſo ye would underſtand: therefore when Judas had betrayed him to the multitude, and thoſe about him ſaid unto him, *Lord ſhall we ſmite with the ſword?* And one of them had ſmitten and cut off the High Priests ſervants ear; Chriſt answered and ſaid, *Suffer ye thus far?* Shewing, that now the Sword had done his Office: And ſo he touched his ear & healed him, Thus exercising his Power of love in requiring good for evil, and even making up the breach that the Sword had made in revenge: neither was any ſight of the Sword ſeen in the hands of any of the Apoſtles and Saints after Chriſts departure, but they ſuffered with all Patience through faith in the Power of God; & ſo muſt & do the Lambs true followers in this his day of reſtoring the deſolate Places, as John teſtifies in his Book of Revelation; he that killeth with the Sword, muſt be killed by the Sword; here is the Patience and Faith of the Saints. And as for divers Scriptures that ſpeak of the Lords overturning again & again, till he come to Reign whole Right, it is, and of puniſhing the ſtout heart of the Oppreſſour, and of waſting utterly thoſe Nations that will not ſerve the Church, and ſuch like: they muſt be underſtood of the exercising of Chriſts Power in Peoples hearts, and alſo of juſtly ſuffering the falſe and unrighteous powers of the earth to ſcourge and deſtroy each other for their iniquity, till they come to ſerve and fear the Lord in Truth, which brings into Peace and Unity; for the Devils Kingdom is divided againſt it ſelf, but *Jeruſalem* is a City in Unity with it ſelf; but that the Saints ſhall and ſhould have a hand in theſe outward deſolations, as moved thereto by the Spirit of the Lord, I ſay, for his Kingdom in them ſtands in righteouſneſs, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, which they are

to hold forth visibly before all men, and not their hands to act contrary to their hearts.

Now come we to you called Seekers, to try what ye seek after, tickle, and whether ye seek the Lord in a right way: that it is a precious thing to seek the Lord and his Way of Righteousness in truth, all the Righteous and upright in heart do experimentally know: for seek and ye shall find saith Christ, (the true light) to him: and blessed are they that keep his Testimonies, and seek him with the whole heart, and saith David in another place, Let all those that seek thee, rejoyce and be glad in thee, and it is Prophefied by the Prophet Jeremy, that when the Jews had been in the captivity of Babylon, they should go and seek the Lord their God, asking their way to Zion, (from which they had been captivated) with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join our selves to the Lord, in a perpetual Covenant that shall not be forgotten; Mark, when they were weary of their captivity, they should go and seek, not stand still and enquire onely, but aske with their faces thitherward, saying, Come let us join to the Lord, &c. actually to let about the work; Therefore saith the Lord by the Prophet, in the 48th ye of the 40th Chapter, Remove out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the Land of the Chaldeans, &c. which the Prophet Zachary also secondeth, saying, Deliver thy self from Babylon that dwelleth with the Daughter of Babylon; So, here is a lively representation of the Lords bringing his spiritual Seed out of spiritual captivity, after the long night of Apostacy; Babylon or Confusion was the place they were to depart from, Zion or the Mountain of Holiness was the State they were to come to, and in order hereunto, they were to move and set forward, neither was there any station by the way where they were to set down or continue. Thus I speak for your sakes who for divers years have seemed to turn your backs upon the Whore of Babylon, as seeing and disliking the false doctrines, wayes and worship of Antichrist, whereby you have been deceived and captivated; but as though the Passage to Zion or Jerusalem was stopped up, ye have sit down by the way, saying, The Church is yet in the Wilderness, where she must abide, till God makes way for her coming forth, which is by raising up his witnesses, who must appear with Miracles and such signs as the Apostles did to confirm their Ministry by, till which time there

there is no true Gospel Ministry, nor Administration of Baptism, or any Ordinances of a visible Church. This seems indeed to carry a face of truth with it, and hath troubled many; but consider this, whether ye be not some of those false prophets which Christ said should come and say, *Lo here, and lo there*: whether ye are not those that say, Christ is in the Desert, as yet retired as to his visible appearance in the world, whom to go forth after, the Saints must not, but must keep their own Habitations in the light, to which they have been turned; for saith he, *As the lightning riseth from East and shineth even unto the West, so shall the coming of the Son of man be*; and Luke addeth, *in his day*. So then here is a plain token of the Day of the Son of man, or the sign of the Son of man in Heaven (to wit, in the true Church visible, at his coming) when he cometh as a Universal light that hath enlightened every man that cometh into the world, by whose guidance and direction (they believing in it) all may come out of the false wayes and worshipes and deceipts of the Whole of Babylon, or of the whole world, and out of all sin into the way of Truth, Peace, and true Worship, to serve the Lord in Spirit and Truth with one consent: and those (who have believed in this true light themselves) which makes manifest all sin and deceipt, and having walked therein, have felt it to be the light of life unto them, quickning their Souls up to God, and Baptizing them with his Holy Fire, so making his living Word to be as fire in their bones, and putting words into their mouths to testify and declare against the Beast and false prophet, and against the world that their deeds are evil, and to call them to Repentance, by believing in the same light in themselves, which is Christ the true Prophet, Gods faithful witness, and are true and living witnesses for his Name, and such as preach the Everlasting Gospel of glad Tidings, although they speak in no Language but their Mother Tongue, do no outward miracles, as to heal the sick, cleanse the Lepers or the like; nor do at all practise Baptizing with water, laying on of hands, or breaking of bread. And thus plainly demonstrate it to any that are not wilfully blind. The Jewish Law of old was the true figure of the Gospel Church, after the Son of God his being manifested in the flesh, who was the end of all figures and shadows. Look then in what manner the



Lord brought forth and led the Jew outward then, so doth  
 he bring forth and lead the Jew inward afterwards; Now  
 when the Children of Israel came first out of Egypt they  
 were brought out of that house of bondage with a high hand  
 and stretched-out arm; as to the outward: *Moses* was loath  
 to go, as thinking they would not believe him; therefore the  
 Lord gave him a signe of turning the Rod into a Serpent;  
 which he did also before hard-hearted *Pharaoh*, upon whom  
 were ten visible Plagues and Tents; the Sea was divided, the  
 Egyptians drowned, the Rock gushed out water, *Jerobo*  
 fell by the blowing of Rains Horns, and the like: in this  
 high manner came they to *Canaan*; But when they for their  
 iniquity were led into captivity by the King of *Babylonia*,  
 at their coming out the second time, there was no  
 such outward sign shewen, or any such visible work  
 wrought in order to their deliverance; but (as those  
 who had a sight to a restoration of that which once they  
 gained by such hardships and mighty works) this was Gods  
 way of proceeding towards them; he failed up *Ezra* to make  
 a Proclamation of liberty, and to restore the vessels and  
 vessels of the Temple, which was a lively figure of Christ the  
 Spiritual King, Proclaiming in the hearts of his People by  
 the true light, which is his word, that they should now  
 leave all false, and wicked, and deceitful wayes of the *Whore*  
 of *Babylon*, and bring back the vessels of the spiritual Temple  
 to serve and worship God in his holy mountain *Jerusalem*, that  
 they be no longer defiled and profaned by Idol wayes and  
 worship; then, upon this Proclamation of *Ezra*, whose  
 whole hearts were touched, and whose spirits were stirred up,  
 as *Zerubbabel*, *Josiah* and others, stood up *him*, but let  
 about the work leading many Jews to *Jerusalem* without  
 any more ado (as *Nehemiah* did also afterwards by the per-  
 mission of *Artaxerxes*) and when they came thither they went  
 to build the Temple, although the enemies made them cease  
 while by force, then the Prophets *Haggai* and *Zachariah*  
 prophesied (but did no miracle) unto the Jews that were in  
*Judah* and *Jerusalem* in the Name of the Lord God of Israel, *Ezra* 5:  
*vers. 1.* whereupon *Zerubbabel*, and *Josiah* arose up and began to  
 build the house of God, for it is said *Hag. 1.* the Lord stirred



up their Spirits so to do, and the Spirits of all the remnant of the People, for they were in the unbelief before (as ye are) concerning the time, saying *Hag. 2. ver. 3.* the time is not come, the time that the Lords house should be built, then the Lords Word in *Haggai* was this, to convince them of the contrary: Is it time for you, oh ye, to dwell in your field houses, and this house lay wast; now therefore thus saith the Lord, consider your wayes, &c. And afterwards when the second Temple was built, they were apt to have low thoughts of it; who is left among you saith the same Prophet, that saw this house in the first glory, and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes, in comparison of it as nothing (mark) as nothing, yet saith he now, be strong, oh *Zerubbabel*, saith the Lord, and be strong oh *Jeshua* the high Priest, and be strong all ye people of the Land saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you saith the Lord of hosts, according to the word that I covenanted with you, when ye came out of Egypt: I to my spirit remaineth among you, fear ye not: for thus saith the Lord of hosts, yet once it is a little while, and I will shake the Heavens and the Earth and the Sea, and the dry Land; and I will shake all Nations, and the desire of all Nations shall come, and I will fill this house with Glory saith the Lord of hosts: the silver is mine and the gold is mine saith the Lord of hosts: the Glory of this latter house shall be greater then of the former, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will give peace in this place saith the Lord of hosts: are not these plain words to him that desires to understand, the people were discouraged, because their second Temple was not so stately and pompous outwardly as the first built by *Salomon*; yet were they bid to be stronger of a good courage, for the Lord of hosts (strong and mighty) was with them, and the same spirit remained among them, according to his Covenant with them when they came out of Egypt, though there were not miracles and such visible signes shewed amongst them now, as then for the right of building the second Temple. Good in the Covenant, which was still the same to the Seed of Israel outwardly, he to be their God and they to be to him a People, whereof Circumcision in the flesh was a sign, as the Circumcision of the heart is a signe of the spiritual and everlasting Covenant to

the spiritual Seed) saying they should not fear, for he would shortly shake all, and all Nations by his powerful witness, which should make way for Christ to come and fill his second house with his Glory; (for all spiritual riches and treasures are His and in Him) so that the Glory of the latter house should be greater then of the former, to wit, in the invisible Glory (yet visible by fruits of all righteousness) which to bring forth, was the sign and end of all things; the wonders, miracles, tongues and prophecies. So that they should have peace in God which passeth all humane understanding and outward rest also when their sufferings were fulfilled. Now consider whether it were not just so, in the first rising up of the Gospel Church in the Apostles dayes; they had the gift of tongues, they did many miracles, &c. for it was meet and needful at the first bringing in of the first born into an unbelieving and Heathenish world, that it should be so, as it was at the Jew, coming out of Egypt to be a visible Nation and People unto God; but at the coming out of mystical Babylon the Spirit of Life from God covered faith *John* into the necessities, and they stood upon their feet; and they prophesied, notwithstanding, in what language it was, being mentioned, and the way that the Saints overcame was by the blood of the Covenant; namely, the same Life of Christ which is the blood of the everlasting Covenant which the Apostles and Saints formerly stood in, was in them, whereby they got victory every way, all they overcame by the Word of their Testimony; declaring what they had seen and handled of the Word of Life; and by suffering for the same, even unto death, neither yet outwardly adventured their lives in the going on with their sorrows against *Satan*, *Devils*, and the other their cruel enemies; neither is this second work of God to be slighted or lightly esteemed; for it is done by the pure power of the Almighty in the Spirit as the Prophet *Zacharie* testified saying, not by might nor by power; that is, so visibly appearing in strange gifts; but by my Spirit saith the Lord of hosts, even that by whom all things were made; and so is very great, and shall bring forth the purest State of the Church that ever was, as in the description of the new *Jerusalem*, the Holy City, doth most evidently appear, when it shall be a new Heaven and new Earth, wherein shall be no more unrighteousness; which Peter and the

the Saints in his dayes waited for and desired to see; where  
 shall be no more sorrow, nor crying, nor pain, nor night;  
 and this is the State after the captivity, not wrought out by  
 outward signes and wonders, but by the internal light lead-  
 ing out of all that is unclean into that wherein there is no  
 defilement, which is a glorious and all powerful work, so  
 that the Saints feeling of it, shall see and do already; for  
 now is come Salvation and strength, and the Kingdom of our  
 God and the Power of his Christ; for the accuser of our  
 brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God  
 day and night; and this purely spiritual way of proceeding,  
 is most suitable to destroy the mystery of iniquity, for de-  
 ceit by spiritual Wisdom is set in opposition; and doth destroy  
 spiritual deceit, by which the Nations have been made foolish;  
 yet we deny not, or limit the Power of the Holy One in this  
 his day, to come forth in what gifts he pleaseth, as sometimes  
 he hath done by healing, and extraordinary feelings amongst  
 us; but this we say, is not so much a seal to the Ministry,  
 as the Lords free working how he pleaseth, and how he will  
 please to come forth hereafter, when the Truth shall actual-  
 ly prevail over other Nations that do not profess Christi-  
 anity, we are not much careful, in knowing what whatsoever  
 is needful for the managing of the Lords own Work, himself  
 will freely bestow, whether it be the gift of tongues, miracles  
 or any other. Neither is it necessary, that the same Ministry  
 should be the Administrators of baptism with water, laying  
 on of hands, or breaking of bread, at their rising, so con-  
 stituting a Church (called visible) by those outward signs and  
 shadows, say it is not convenient that they should do so for the  
 reasons formentioned to the Baptists; also, since as much as  
 Antichrist under pretence of setting up of outward false Ad-  
 ministrations, called by him Ordinances, and crying them up,  
 hath betrayed the pure life in Spirit, and seeing others also  
 (as the Baptists themselves) who have professed to Minister  
 those Ordinances in a right manner, and on true Subjects  
 thereof, have idolized the same, and become dead, dry and  
 barren therein, ministering out of the life and Power, and in  
 a formality; therefore the Lord, as he hath done in such  
 cases) leaveth them to such Treasons, Idolatry and formalities,

and in such cases, should be left to their own devices, as  
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as going out of them, and leading his People (in this his day) in a different manner, even in a pure path of righteousness in the Spirit manifested by his own immediate fruits; and bringing them into that wherein they see no Temple (besides the Lord God and the Lamb) to dwell in; so that ye called Seekers, waiting (as ye say) for a right Administrator of Baptisme, &c. do but from the desert look for the Kingdom to come with an outward observation; when as the Kingdom of God is within you, as it was in the Pharisees; if ye could so see it; for the light is that in which God dwelleth, and by which he dwelleth in man either as a reprover and condemner, or justice and comforter, and that by which he Reigneth in him as a Judge or Saviour; which is Christ his Son given by him for a Covenant of light to the Gentiles; which Covenant any one taking hold of, is brought into it, and so hath a right to come out of Babylon to Zion, yea, must come out thence least he be found a transgressor against it, for that which sheweth him where he hath been and whither he is to go, will give him strength, he waiting therein, to passe on, till he come to appear before God in Zion which is the beautie of Holiness.

But to what hath been said, ye will object and say, Christ Mark 16. bidding his Disciples that going forth into all the world they should preach the Gospel to every Creature; and he that believed and was baptized should be saved, but he that believed not should be damned; said; and these signs shall follow them that believe; In my Name they shall cast out Devils, they shall speak with new tongues, they shall take up Serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall be well, or recover; So that these are the notes or marks of a true Gospel Ministry, and therefore none may call himself an Apostle or Minister of Christ except he can confirm his Ministry by some of these; or any call themselves the true Church; unless such signs follow them, or are found amongst them.

This true, since these things mentioned were signs whereby their Ministry was propagated and confirmed; for without the gift of tongues the Gospel could not have been so readily declared throughout the Nations into which they were to go; nor without the other signs would they so readily have believed that which they had never heard of before, but it doth not there-

therefore follow that every one who went forth in the Ministry had tongues or did *cast out Devils, heal the sick, &c.* For if any one were then moved by the Spirit of the Lord to Preach but in one Language; even in his Mother tongue, he was as truly a Minister of Christ to those to whom he spake as those were that spake to divers Nations; As *Apollos*, who we read not to have either spake with any new tongue, or ever to do a miracle, yet having received Wisdom and Power from on high, he was an eminent Minister of the Gospel, and an instrument by whom the *Corinthians* believed, as *Paul* witnessed; neither was alway a miracle wrought by those who might sometimes work such a thing when People were converted, nay rather oftner by Preaching alone, without it; So the three thousand were converted by the Preaching of *Peter* without a miracle done at the time of their being pricked in heart, and gladly receiving his Word; so while *Peter* another time spake to *Cornelius* and his Family, the Holy Spirit fell on them, no miracle being wrought; so *Paul* Preached two whole years in his own hired house, having first declared the Truth to the *Jews*, some of whom believed the things that were spoken, and others believing not, and this without a miracle; So *Lydia's* heart was opened by *Paul* and *Timotheus* their speaking, without a miracle; for ye must know that although such things were signs when the Power was pleased so to operate, yet the living Word being declared by the living Power, was sufficient enough (without any other sign) to prevail, and approve those so speaking to be the Ministers of Christ to whom they spake; so the *Corinthians* were the seal of *Paul's* Apostleship, his Gospel coming to them in the Power and demonstration of the Spirit; so were they his *Epistle* that commended his Ministry, known and read of all men. Know also that though God did then freely come forth in such a way, yet those who sought a sign were an Adulterous generation; for if a man would but believe and keep to the Word nigh in his mouth and heart when declared in him or unto him, he need not look out for any such thing. And as for those signs following those who believed, it could not be all those who believed, for most of the believers or members of the true Church spake neither with tongues, or shewed any miracles, as is undeniably evident, neither could those be Essential



signs of Faith; for nothing is the proper token of that but works of righteousness alone, as *James* witnesseth, and none ever denied; so then these signs following those that believed, were indeed further confirmations that such did believe wherein they appeared, while the Essential tokens thereof remained with them; but if they should be absent (*or love which is the fulfilling of the Law*) though any one should speak with the tongue of men and Angels, and have Faith so as to remove mountains, it would profit nothing, and so be no sign of his being a believer. And so the false Prophets miracles which *John* saith he wrought before the Beast can be no sign of his Faith or of a true Ministry, because he is an enemy of all righteousness. But to come more home to this point, I say, that as the Commission was given to the Apostles and Saints to Minister in that age, till the Apostacie, according to the several gifts and operations of the Spirit, and the work they had then to do, which was a great deal in a little time, as going far and neare, and as his Commission was declared by Christs personal mouth before his departure, which was terminated in them, and fulfilled in that age; so in the second restoration, Christ the light gives a second Commission by his Spirit, to those who have waited in his light; what to Minister with, and how to Minister, according to their work in this his last day, which is first of all to unfold the skirts of the great and mystical Whore, who will acknowledge Christ and the Scriptures in words, but oppose and betray his pure Life; wherefore he commandeth his witnesses now to fight with her with the sword of his mouth, in the Power of Wisdom, which is better then outward strength, and so they act and speak as he moveth and enableth them, keeping to their own gift, measure and work, as the Apostles and Saints formerly did to theirs; and not regarding how they acted or spake, so as to be moved or troubled at it, as to question their call to the work of the Ministry; for they know if they receive the witness of many the witness of God is greater, which witness is his light within them, which plainly sheweth them and sealeth in them (though the whole world gain-say it) that they have felt in themselves the Baptism of the spirit and fire (whose effects I before declared) and so the



the operation of his living Word, which hath brought thousands of others to believe in the same light, and many to feel also the same living Word and spiritual Baptism, which hath shaken the Earthly part within like a cottage; and also the outward body of some, putting words in their mouths to declare his righteousness in the great Assembly, and magnifie his Holy Name in the Congregations of his Saints; this was that greater work that Christ said his Disciples should do then he had done, because he went to his Father, for the Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified; this is really witnessed among us, the Spirit sealing it in our hearts; so that we witnessing the one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism, we are thereby baptized into the one body, and being many are one bread, and so the true Church that is come and coming out of Babylon, and out of the wilderness, Glory be to the Lord for ever, who hath thus visited and Redeemed his People; for this living Power is the gift itself, tongues, miracles, prophesie, &c. are but this gift flowing as streams from this fountain; now if the Lord do keep back some streams, and give us more of the fountain in this his day, we are not losers but gainers by that; and so the more to be owned as the Church of Christ.

But ye will say, when the Church was brought out of mystical Babylon, John declareth there was an Angel who flew shew the midst of heaven with an everlasting Gospel to Preach to them that dwell on the Earth; and to all Nations, kindreds, tongues, and People, which (since we see not how that could be without the gift of tongues) sheweth us, that the true Ministry must have the very same visible gifts now, as the Apostles had before they undertake to go forth.

That People were never truly called out of Babylon before the Preaching of this everlasting Gospel, is certainly true, and that it is to be Preached to all sorts of People upon the Earth is as certain; but that this Gospel must now be Preached to some till the gift of tongues be given, whereby it might be declared to all, is false; for the Wisdom of God teacheth his People in what manner and order he will proceed in the publishing his truth throughout the world, it must begin first, in Sodom and Egypt, where our Lord, (Christ the light and

life) hath been crucified; I mean the Anti-christian State, which under pretence of professing Christ, opposeth him; this Beast indeed is many headed, and consists of divers Nations, but they must not all be cut off at once, but by degrees; we know by experience (what ever ye believe) that he hath begun his work in this Isle of the North, wherein we live, and that there have been wayes made somewhat to awaken other Nations also; the pure Language being known, a tongue hath not been wanting to speak to them in; and in this one thing do I behold Gods great Wisdom, that he hath taken the wise in their own craftiness; that whereas the Antichristian Priests have (as the Hebrew and Greek) so especially idolized the *Latine* or *Romane* tongue, all over *Europe*, whereby its become a general Language; hereby a good occasion is given to spread the truth, throughout all these Nations of Christendome, so called; also so much hath been the mutual commerce betwixt these Antichristian People for many years, as pointing each other to be Christians, that in any of these Nations it may be either spoken in their own Language, or by an Interpreter: which last way is not to be despised; for the mighty God brings and will bring to pass great things in these last times by weak beginnings, and none is to despise the Day of small things; yea, the voice hath been heard in *Turkie* already: and if any of you shall say, But what had they to do to go thither, without the gift of the Tongue? I answer, you must ask him that moved them thereto, even by turning in to Gods witness which is his true light within every one of you, and waiting therefor Counsel, ye shall know the Lords secrets, and feel his Power to arise, which shall bring you into Unity with their Spirits, who knew their Call, which ye will not then dispute; but in the mean-time, him that is ignorant, let him be ignorant; but however know, that your unbelief cannot make the truth of God of none effect. But is it not Propheesied by *Isaiah* concerning the Church, that he will turn his hand upon her, and purely purge away her dross, and take away all her tin, and will restore all her Judges as at the first, and her Counsellors as at the beginning, afterwards she shall be called the City of Righteousness, the faithful City: Zion shall be Redeemed with

with Judgement, and her converts with Righteousness; whereby it appeareth that at the Restauration of the Church the second time (which is a very refining time, and of Redemption through Judgement and Righteousness which ye talk so much of) the Ministry of the Church shall be as they were at the first gathering of it by the Apostles, and so gifted just as they were.

The endowing of the witnesses at their Resurrection, shall be with the Spirit of life from God entering into them; and so they shall be as at the first; for that is the gift it self, which brings into Unity of Spirit all the Prophets, Apostles and Saints in all ages, and into Unity in Ministry, as declaring one Everlasting Truth for substance, and from one Eternal Root; but in respect of the gifts and operations of that one Spirit or Gift, it may be different at sundry times and seasons, according to the work that is to be done and the various workings of the Spirit it self; So God who at sundry times and divers manners spake to the Jews by the Prophets, spake in the last times by his Son, by whom also he speaketh sundry wayes, at sundry times, though not a sundry truth; for the Apostles bare witness to the true light that lighteth every man, and to the Word nigh in the mouth and heart, as Moses also witnessed; and so do we now by the same Spirit; they were forsaking up and standing in the Cross, fulfilling of all Righteousness, and for separation from every Idol, and all Idolatrous wayes, and so are we now, and that not only in word, but in deed and in truth; they would not go forth to speak and suffer in their own strength without power from above, felt to enable them thereunto, neither dare we the like without the same Power; so then here are now Judges as at the first, the same Spirit of Judgment proceeding (yea, the Lord in his People rather coming more near to Judgement) and Counsellours as at the beginning, those that exhort and reprove in the same Authority, whose words the earthly mind is even less able to bear than formerly, for Plagues and Woes unsufferable: and so scorching vials are now pouring forth upon the seat of the Beast and the Whore, and hail-stones fall from Heaven upon the wicked like the weight of a talent; and those who speak in all wisdom to the Saints themselves, are seen, so ministering from the life to the same immortal life, whereby they are built

up unto a perfect man; so that neither are they to be denied to be Counsellours as at the beginning, because they do not exhort People to be Baptized with water, &c. for they find not that in their spiritual Commission; yea, see by the internal light, the end of all shadows which must and do flee away at the very dawning of this bright day of the coming of the Son of man, which shall never set more; for saith the Lord to the Church, *Thy Sun shall no more go down at noon*: increase it shall, but not decrease; So here now is the true Tryal of the true Church and Ministry, when the sign of the Son of man is seen in Heaven, even himself appearing in his People as a universal light, enlightning every one as the lightening which shineth from one end of Heaven to the other: as also by the Baptism of Fire and the Holy Spirit, which is felt really amongst us; for as *Eliab* (in *Jezabels* time) said (when there was a contest about his being a true Prophet, or whether *Baals* prophets (who were 450) were such or no) he that answereth by fire let him be God; so the Lord answering *Eliab* by fire (a lively figure of this spiritual Baptism) it licked up the water which was in the ditch and wood, and fleshy offering (a true representation of the consuming outward shadows, & the hay, wood and stubble that *Paul* speaketh of) whereby he alone was known to be the Lords own Prophet, and the other (though many) to be false ones, and so he had dominion over them and slew them; So say I now to all Sects and Gatherings and Opinions in the world, where the Lord God Baptizeth with fire, consuming and burning up the dross, slaying his People that wait on him, with a Holy Jealousie for his Holy Name, and against all evil in thought, word and deed, where the outward earthly tabernacle (as well as the inward) is shaken, where all shadows are made to vanish, as needles in such a day as this, there is the true Church visible, and the true Prophets and Witnesses who slay all false prophets with the Sword of Christs mouth, laying them (by spiritual judgement) under Eternal Condemnation (they repenting not) and so casting them into the lake of fire. And in this sense is that place in *Jer.* 30. to be understood (which I believe ye (called *Seekers*) much stick at) where the Prophet fore-telling the Restauration of the Church after the captivity, said,

The

*The City should be builded upon her own Heap, and the Palace remain after the manner thereof, and that their Children should be as aforetime, and their Congregation be established before the Lord, and their Nobles should be of themselves, and their Governour proceed from the midst of them, &c.* to wit, by the building the Church upon the same true Foundation as formerly, even Christ the true light, and bestowing on it the same spiritual gift, which was the Spirit of truth, the Fathers Promise to all true believers; So establishing them upon the Rock of ages, against which the Gates of Hell shall not prevail; out of whom should go forth such Ministers who should be Noble and Valiant for the Truth, Christ himself, the Head of the Church, being their Governour; who from the midst of them ariseth in his strength to scatter all their enemies, and to punish all that oppress them; as the Lord hath said (he will do) by the same Prophet; so that the Palace remains after the manner of the former, as enjoying the substance, though the shadowes and same gifts in all things be not practised by the Saints, or found amongst them; for the Prophet *Amos Chap. 9.* foretelling of the raising up of the Tabernacle of David that was fallen down, &c. said, *That the Lord would build it as in the dayes of old;* Now we find that the Apostle *James* in *Acts 15.* applieth this Prophecie to the raising up of the Gentile Church in those dayes; which was truly applied thereunto, because (although the Jewish Church of old was very far different, both in matter and manner of Administration, from the Churches of Christ then) yet it was builded as in the dayes of old, because it was established upon the Foundation of *Abraham*, with whom the Covenant was made both to the carnal and spiritual seed, and because the substance was felt and witnessed, which was the same in the Saints in all ages. Wherefore I exhort ye all (called *Seekers*) if ye will find what ye say ye seek after, to come to the light in your own selves, and wait low in it, so shall you find the vail to remove from off your understandings, whereby the true & faithful witness Christ Jesus will be seen to stand up; and so all impediments & stumbling blocks taken up from the Letter without will be removed, and a right understanding of the Scriptures be given, so as to discern of the times and seasons; but ye must first come to the Cross.

Cross by owning your Reprover for sin, and deny the pride, pleasures, intereits, folly and vanities of this world, so as not the longer ye seek, the worse ye grow (as 'tis too manifest some of you have done, for it is the humble that he will teach, and his secret is with them that fear him, so as to shew them his Covenant (for so have I found it by experience) which Covenant of light being witnessed, ye will easily see your way to *Sion*, and your Leader thither, not standing still for lack of gifts in others, or wanting an Administrator of external ordinances, but will keep to your own, and find in due time such pure Power to arise, as will administer to you in his own Sanctuary, and make you Minister that to others, which will plainly shew that ye are those who are called & chosen & faithful, though ye never speak with any other Tongue than your Mother Tongue, or do any outward Miracle; yet speaking and declaring of all his wonderful works.

Now come I to stand up in defence of the Truth and true Church of the first born, against all you of what sort soever you be, or under what name soever ye go who being out of all those aforementioned Sects, lift your heads on high, snuffing up the wind, and think it too low a condition for you to believe in the true light within you, which secretly reproveth for all sin and evil, and so to wait humbly and silently therein, with the People of God (called *Quakers* in derision, because they tremble at the Word of the Lord, and are afraid to offend (in the least thing) that of God in them) for so must you much deny your selves, both in wisdom, talking and behaviour amongst men with whom ye converse, which Cross would to them seem a ridiculous and foolish thing in you: Ye will say perhaps ye are above Ordinances or shadows, and can live satisfied of your selves by that which ye know and are taught of God, without joyning to, or walking with any; But consider Friends, there is one great Ordinance which ye must never get above, but be in subjection to, if ever ye will have true Peace with the living God, and that is Christ the true light, who shines in every ones heart, either as a Justifier or Condemner, who is the great gift of the Father to the Sons of men, and him whom he hath ordained to save or destroy for ever. Now (whatever men may talk or rattle, or boast

of



of themselves) this is a more certain truth, sealed in me by the Spirit of the Lord God, that whosoever he be that truly believeth in Christ the light, doth whatsoever the light leadeth unto, and that one special thing which it leads unto, is to bring the Creature, Soul, Body and Spirit into a right frame and order, out of its own will into the Will of its guide, which is the light; so as that man shall not walk at random, speak or do as it pleaseth him, but shall freely and naturally love the Society, and joyn visibly in the bond of Amity with those that believe and walk in the light, knowing a time of silence, as they do, and a bridle for the tongue, so as to keep his mouth as with a bit, and this is to walk in the foot-steps of the Flock; for in this manner doth the good shepherd put his sheep forth, & go before them in this his day, the states and conditions of all those who have been in spiritual captivity, so requiring it; nor is it enough for any of you to say, is God tied up to a Form? For we know this is no form or frame of mans devising, but what the light naturally and mans condition necessarily calls him into; for if his delight be with the Saints and those that excel in vertue, as *Dauids* was who had a sincere heart, he cannot but come amongst them in love, and if they there wait on the Lord, he to wait with them, if they seek the Lord, he to seek him with them, if they love the Lords Judgements and Reproofs, he to love them also, and if they rejoyce in the Lord, he to rejoyce also; this is to be like minded and affectionate one to another, hereby doth the pure and unfeigned love appear, & the Unity or the Onety in the Spirit is witnessed, here is a Church visible in a sweet and spiritual order, and yet out of any invented or humane form; for although we know and say that mans order is confusion, yet we also know and say that God is a God of order not of confusion; Now what is more comely than for Friends and Brethren in the truth to live together in Unity, and in what way can this Unity be more shewen, than by meeting and assembling together to wait upon the Lord, to know his Counsel, to feel his Teachings, to speak when he speaketh, to move when he moveth, and to rest when he resteth; Is not this Gods way of leading his People to *Canaan*, yea, and in *Canaan*, is not this one part of walking in the light of the Lamb, is not this a

of that one heart and one way that the Lord hath promised to lead his People in? is not here a spiritual Harmony, and hereby, doth not the Saints (in a great measure) appear to be a City set on a Hill that cannot be hid? Let that of God answer in every one of you, and not your own high conceivings.

But ye will be ready to say, *What difference is there betwixt you and other Sets in this? they meet together (as you do) in an appointed place, and at a set hour, they pray, sit and hear one speak to them, &c. and you do the like.*

Doth not right reason (unless any be past reason) tell you, that if Persons meet they must have a Place to meet at or in, and that they must also know the time of their so assembling, why then do you argue against necessity it self? But if the end of your so objecting be to destroy all general Assemblings of the Saints together, then I say you speak not in Gods Wisdom, nor know not the thoughts of his heart; for the Apostle who was in the Wisdom of God, and had received the Spirit of Truth to guide him, saith, *Exhort ye one another daily, least any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin; and whereas perhaps ye may think such Meetings are needless, because of this day of the Lord that is risen and arising; the same Apostle argues quite contrary, saying, Not forsaking the Assembling of your selves together (as the manner of some is) but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching; Oh! People consider, that the perfect day of the Lord is most exceeding desirable of all the Children of light; therefore the more they espy it, the more they seek after it; Now Exhortations or other Declarations that come from the light of life, raiseth the light of life in others, and so brings on the day; for it is like fire begetting fire, or like face answering to face in a glass, not like the dead and dry words of other Assemblies, where there is no waiting in the light (first) to feel the life, but a continual trading and going on in self-strength; but ye cannot nor dare not deny but that we do so wait, and all words spoken out of that are judged by the same: and if any one among us look out after words, and is not as well satisfied without them as with them, if the Lord will have all flesh keep silence before him, that dissatisfaction is judged also. Besides, if ye were in that which giveth a right discerning, ye would*

would see that words spoken from the life are altogether need-  
ful for the conviction and conversion of the world, and di-  
recting their minds to the true light their guide; and would  
also see that most words that are spoken are for their sakes, as  
taking compassion on the multitude, who are wandring like  
sheep without a shepherd; and the Lord God will have all this  
so to be for *Jerusalems* sake, which he will make the praise of the  
whole earth; therefore shall not his Watch-men keep silence  
night nor day till her brightness go forth as the light, and her  
Righteousness as the Lamp that burneth; Wherefore if ye knew  
what this meaneth, ye would not condemn the guiltless, yea,  
the faithful for doing their duty, for which they so suffer by  
the hands of wicked men; but it is no wonder that ye do so,  
for ye being in a too loose liberty, under pretence of Chri-  
stian Liberty, despise and shun the Cross as foolishness, which to  
us is the Power of God.

But perhaps ye will further say, *Although words may be useful  
to the world, as also to build up those who are weak, or that are not  
come to perfection; yet to those who have attained, they are useless, ac-  
cording to thy own Doctrine, who hast said before that the Holy City  
had no need of the Sun, Moon or light of a Candle, &c.*

'Tis one thing to hear words that come from the life out of  
necessity, and another thing to hear them in the Unity; now  
the Saints who walk in the Lambs immediate light alone, may  
hear the Bride-grooms voice in others, and have great joy  
therein; though they are not spoken to their particular con-  
ditions, or have no need at all of any outward Declaration  
to build them up; so *John* his joy was fulfilled, in hearing  
what Christ preached to others; Therefore the Assembly of  
all Saints is still needful, both to rejoyce together in the  
Truth, and to witness the same in the sight of others.

But some of you may say, *Though we are not of the number of  
any of those Sects thou hast mentioned, nor walk with you (yet we do  
meet together at certain times) and pray and preach; yea, and sing  
also (and are therefore called the singing People) and professing the  
Virgin life, as those who live in the highest Region of Light and  
Truth.*

Friends, consider seriously with yourselves what you do,  
least ye deceive your own Souls; for it is not in words, no nor  
the highest words that can be uttered (nor those in the highest

manner, that Gods Kingdom doth consist; therefore examine your selves whether ye are yet come to the first Principle of God in your selves, which is the true light within, that searcheth the heart, judgeth the deceit thereof, makes humble and meek, pulls down pride within and without, roots out the covetousness, denies respect of or from persons, brings to the Cross every way, & into the true silence, before the mouth is opened by the Power; for who shall take his Word or Covenant into his mouth, that is not Reformed? Or how can the dead praise the living? Now those marks of Non-reformation by the light, are too visible upon you; Wherefore stop your mouths ye Preaching & Praying luminaries that are found in the pollutions of the world, that flee the Cross, and love not to come to the light that ye may be Judged; but will be ready to be angry or touchy at such words as these, saying, *We are too censorious, or the like*; when as they are but the words of truth and soberness; for truth and sobriety consists in plain dealing, which ye all will confess is a Jewel, and yet do not desire to be plainly dealt withal; ye are they that cause divisions & rents, professing to be taught of God, & yet stand at a distance from those who by his true Teachings take up the Cross and stand in it; Wherefore link down I charge you all such, and come to the light, believing and waiting in it with us, and let not the glory of this world, or any other interest, pleasure or lust hinder you from so doing, so shall ye be called the Repairers of the breaches, and those that follow Love and Peace aright, which is shewen in nothing more than by having one heart and one way with Gods People (who ye will not deny many of us to be) to serve him (with them) with one consent; for we know that ye ought to return to us, and that we must not return to you.

And as for you *Singers*, consider whether ye have not rather cause to mourn and lament, since those things which are the proper causes of sorrow are found in and among you? Will ye be covetous, proud and lofty, self-seeking, dissimble for advantage sake, respect and court persons, and the like, and come before the Lord with a Song? Can such sing the New Song as Redeemed from the earth? Nay, they that live in pleasure are dead while they live, and so are in the grave of sin, in which there is no true remembrance of the Lord.

Lord God of Life and Power, and far from the undefiled Virginity of the Lambs Wife. Wherefore be not deceived, God is not mocked, for this is but a mockery, and except ye come first to the house of mourning, and bid Adieu to all your lovers, and pass under the Rod, ye cannot be brought into the bond of the Covenant of Light, Life and Peace, but your Harps must needs be (ere long) hanged upon the Willows; For how should ye sing the Song of the Lord in a strange Land?

But I hear some of you retorting, and saying, *Thou hast judged all but your selves, as living in sin, and divers lusts and idolatry, &c. but we see the same things among you, that thou chargest us with and deniest us for; Is not covetousness idolatry, and unmercifulness a fruit of unrighteousness? are not some of you also in the pride in your house, and in the fulnesse of bread, when some are pinched? are ye not too partial in looking upon one more than another? doth not anger and emulation and judging one another wrongfully, and rash speaking appear among you? do we not see these things, and why then should ye be accounted more the Church of Christ than any other People; for the Kingdom of God stands not in yea and nay, pulling or not pulling off a hat, saying thou to any one, or wearing of apparel, or taking by the hand, but in Righteousness and all the fruits thereof, as thou thy self hast said.*

If I speak of my self my witness is not true, I judge you not out of that light which judgeth all things, which ye either call natural and insufficient, or sleight as a little, low and weak thing, and so are out of that which should make all works acceptable to the Lord, and which should discover and destroy all unrighteousness; so that ye are not only denied because of your bad fruits, but as being out from that which would make you bring forth good fruits, for make the tree good, and the fruit shall be good, saith Christ the light, in whom the tree is made good, as acting from a living Principle, yet that the tree is known by its fruit I grant and affirm and have affirmed against all loose and ranting spirits in the world, who would have no outward action to be a mark or token of the good or evil tree; but the light, Life or Principle must not be separated from the action, nor the action from it, for if so, all a mans righteousness becomes unrighteousness, as

acted from self, in the wrong ground, and his knowledge like a cloud without water. But as for your objecting against our conversation in the world; I say, we judge our selves (first) and espie the beam in our own eye; for being turned to the light which makes manifest, the least thing that appeareth in us contrary thereto, is as a beam, which (while standing) clouds and overspreads the pure presence of God; wherefore we are not at rest day or night, till the beam be plucked out, and so do we espie and reprove the faults of others who either plead for sin as long as they live, or excuse their own iniquity by others failings, and yet think themselves safe. And this I would have none of you be ignorant of, that although we believe perfection to be attainable in this world, yet we are very sensible, that it is not the work of a day, moneth, or year, but that there must be much waiting, many a sigh and groan, a great spiritual combate with the Dragon and his Angels within, a diligent and expert exercising of the whole Armour of light, ere such a State be witnessed; but this is our comfort, that we are truly turned to that which gives the victory in the end, and so are not faithless but believe, as also, that the Lambs War is truly begun in us, who fights our battels for us, while we stand still and behold his Salvation; with which Salvation, some are already saved, and others saving; so every one in his own measure and order, so that (in few words) if any or all of those things by you objected should sometime appear in or among some of us, yet know they are not ours, but the evil ones to whom they belong; for when we speak of our selves as Saints, we mind that which is born of God which cannot sin, for that is the Elect Seed, which is for ever joyned to the Lord, and takes his part against the transgressor; and this I will say, not onely for my self, but in the behalf of other brethren and friends (in whose defence I have been moved to make this Apologie) that there is never a one amongst us, who are truly and sincerely come to the light, but do love judgement, yea wait for his judgements to be brought to light, and forth to victory, even as the watchman watcheth for the morning; and so far are any such from pleading for any one sin in thought word or deed, that it is their

meat



meat and drink to do the will of the Father; and like gall and wormwood to the pure thing of God in them, when it is not fulfilled, neither can they be (in the least) content to throwd themselves under a Profession of truth, so as the more freely to act deceit thereby, but both desire and witness a growth in truth and righteousness, as knowing that not to go forward is to go backward; And as for any that come amongst us, and seem to walk with us, that are otherwise minded and conditioned then I have declared, by the light they are judged, and by the truth denied, and by the fan winnowed, and in themselves condemned; wherefore stumble not at the light and truth because of offences, for that causeth not the offence, but by degrees gathereth all things that do offend out of the Fathers Kingdom, and maketh fearfulness in due time to surprise the Hypocrite; so God is glorified, and his truth vindicated thereby. Thus the foundation of God standeth sure to the Seed, notwithstanding all such objections, and the true Church which is the pillar and ground of truth is appeared in this our day, so that none hath any more just cause to disown it for some faults and failings that may yet be found among us, then the heathen had just cause to deny the *Jews* outward, to be the Lords people, when they came out of *Babylon* to build the Temple, because of some things that were not right and comely amongst them, against which *Nehemiah* contested, and which were also rectified, which was a figure of Christ Jesus the spiritual King, the Rectifier, reformer and perfecter of his People.

And as for some outward gestures and behaviour among men, which ye account as trivial and indifferent things, know that though they are little in themselves, yet as they flow from a pure Principle of God in us, which makes us outwardly to testifie against the pride and loftiness of man, which is to be brought down in this the day of the Lords exaltation, they are of great and necessary use, and as for taking by the hand, it is a manifestation of equality and unity among friends in the life, and to be done from a pure moving, and not from a tie or custome; but as for yea and nay, whatever is more either in word or work cometh of evil; And so I shall conclude with prayer to the God of all Grace, that as he  
which

which hath called us by his Son, is holy, so we may be holy in all manner of conversation more and more, till every thing that offendeth within or without be taken away, that so the new Heavens and new Earth, wherein dwelleth all righteousness, may be enjoyed, wherein love (which the fulfilling thereof) doth plentifully flow and not wax cold, that the Lord God may be glorified in us and we in him, and his Name be written in our fore-heads, to the stopping of the mouths of all that oppose the truth, to him be praise, and glory and everlasting Dominion now and for evermore.

**THE END.**

